N 482

F.O. 371

CLOSED UNTIL 1983

98514

SUPPLIED
FOR THE
PUBLIC SERVICE

1952

E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

PALESTINE

E E 1826/80

FROM

Mr Chapman Andrews, Beirut.

No. 534.

Dated 17.9.52

Received in Registry— 18.9.52

Last Paper.

References.

-/79

98514

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action completed.) 2/10

(Index.) 1.7/10

Next Paper.

Resettlement in Syria.

Text of the revised memorandum on agreement for resettlement in Syria.

Rptg Damascus, W. Van.

(Minutes.)

See -/79.

This dft is to be put formally to the Syrian Foreign Minister on his return from Cairo shortly. The Advisory Commission think it shd be accepted by UNRWA. Sir H Knight says that Syria may back out even now.

I find the Syrian hesitation only explicable in terms of their political fears of dealing with UNRWA at all, since the dft binds them to nothing even the provision of land is qualified by the words 'where available'. U.N.R.W.A. equally loses nothing by signing since implementation of the resettlement plans mentioned will be governed by specific project agreements to be negotiated later. UNRWA gains a resettlement agreement with Syria which is an advance, even though the agreement itself is of negligible value. U.N.R.W.A shd therefore sign.

Sir H. Knight will assume our approval unless he hears to the contrary by 21st Sept. and I do not think it necessary to telegraph our assent.

J.W.B. Richmond
19/9

E. Dept. If press reports are to be believed, the Arab League have decided to take up a more reasonable attitude to resettlement. If so, the Syrians

31401 F.O.P.

Syrians may have work forthcoming.

20/9.

Mr Richmond again

Let us continue to hope.

20/9

See note.

A/ Washington 952 (S) of 20 Sept

It is a sound point, but might be difficult to put over with the Syrians, who have not yet granted the refugees Syrian nationality.

21/9

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS PAGE.

SECRET

E 67826/84

FROM BEIRUT TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL DISTRIBUTION

Mr. Chapman Andrews
No. 534
17th September, 1952

D. 3.52 p.m. 17th September, 1952
R. 5.52 p.m. 17th September, 1952

PRIORITY
SECRET

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 534 of 17th September
Repeated for information to Damascus
Washington.

E 67826/84 18 SEP 1952

My immediately preceding telegram: Syria - Revised Memorandum on Agreement.

The General Assembly of the United Nations by Resolution 513 (VI) has approved a programme of 200 million dollars to be expended by U.N.R.W.A. over a period of approximately 3 years for the improvement of refugee living conditions through projects initiated by the Government which makes refugees self-supporting and removes them from the ration roll [grp. undec] refugees rights in repatriation and compensation.

2. U.N.R.W.A. agree to reserve 30 million dollars of Fund Contribution Agency for a programme which will improve living conditions of approximately 20,000 refugee families in Syria over a period ending 30th June 1954 in accordance with the following general numbers:

(a) Technical training for 3,000 families, 3 million dollars

(b) Industrial and Commercial 1,000 families, 1 million dollars

(c) Agricultural 16,000 families, 24 million dollars

(d) Services (principally Educational), 2 million dollars. In addition there will be added from the Relief Budget over the same period approximately 4,500,000 Syrian pounds.

3. The Government of Syria agree to cooperate in carrying out this programme and will provide the necessary legislation and regulations, making available public land where available and,

/with all .....

with all goodwill, assure maximum benefits for refugees from expenditure of U.N.R.W.A. funds.

4. Implementation of various categories of this programme will require specific project agreement between the Government of Syria and U.N.R.W.A. A project agreement will describe in detail the scope of the projects, the plan of Expenditure and Arrangements for Construction, operation and utilisation by refugees.

5. The facilities to be provided by U.N.R.W.A. upon public land are to become the property of the Government of Syria for the use of refugees.

6. This agreement does not create any commitments for either party beyond the programme period ending 30th June 1954 except as may be provided in specific project agreement assuring complete projects and enjoyment of their benefits by refugees.

Foreign Office pass Washington as my telegram No. 18.

[Repeated to Washington]

DISTRIBUTED TO:
Eastern Department
Middle East Secretariat
United Nations Economic and Social Department

:::::

INWARD SAVING TELEGRAM

E

C.B.

"No copies of this document may be made or communicated to any person not on the authorised distribution without permission".

Dept.

EN CLAIR (BY BAG)

E1826/80

FROM WASHINGTON TO FOREIGN OFFICE

No. 982 Saving
September 20th, 1952

D. 4.00 p.m. September 20th, 1952

CONFIDENTIAL

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 982 Saving of September 20th 1952,
Repeated for information to Beirut No.65(S) for Knight
Damascus 63(S)

Beirut telegram No. 534 to you /of 17th Sept/

ARAB REFUGEES.

E 1826/80

The State Department have informed us that their only major comment on the draft memorandum contained in the telegram under reference will concern paragraph 5. They are instructing Locke to urge the Director to secure modifications of the text "to give refugees so choosing title to their lands over a period of time". Locke will not however insist on this point.

STEEL

23 SEP 1952

CONFIDENTIAL

INWARD SAVING TELEGRAM

FROM WASHINGTON TO FOREIGN OFFICE

By Bag

DEPARTMENTAL DISTRIBUTION

Sir C. Steel
No.982 Saving
20th September, 1952. R.22nd September, 1952.

CONFIDENTIAL

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No.982 Saving of 20th September,

Repeated for information Saving to Beirut (for Knight)
Damascus

Beirut telegram No.534 to you [of 17th September].

Arab refugees.

The State Department have informed us that their only major comment on the draft memorandum contained in the telegram under reference will concern paragraph 5. They are instructing Locke to urge the Director to secure modifications of the text "to give refugees so choosing title to their lands over a period of time". Locke will not however insist on this point.

DISTRIBUTED TO

Eastern Department
Middle East Secretariat
United Nations (Economic and Social Department

B B B

1952

E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

PALESTINE

E 1826/81

FROM

BMEO, Beirut
to MEJ.

No. 142/53/2.

Dated

Received in Registry— 11. 9. 52.
17. 9. 52.

Resettlement in Jordan.

Encloses a note by Mr R. S. PORTER on the possibilities of resettlement of refugees in the Jordan Valley.

(To Murray to Mr Rogers, Amman)

Last Paper

References

(Print)

(How disposed of)

Dft) Dr Murray, BMEO Beirut for Mrs Waterlow
27 Sept

(Minutes)

This is a good paper.

With regard to para 14, H. M. Minister in Amman has expressed the view, & the State Dept. & we have agreed, that it would be politically impossible to insist that any development projects which UNRWA may undertake in Jordan should benefit the refugees only.

C Waterlow
23/9

Mr Hyatt
E. Dept.

The thesis of this paper needed stating.

What worries me, more than the exaggerated figures of the resettlement opportunities to be created by this scheme which are given by Bunger, is the fear that the agricultural settlement may not be successful and that the electric energy produced may not find a market. In the Jordan valley the crop we presumably be vegetables, 2 or 3 hundred thousand dunums of irrigated land produces quite a lot of vegetables, who is going to eat them? Jordan herself can hardly provide a market and

(Action completed) 8/10

(Index) 17/P

Next Paper

EE. 1825/6(53)

35825

1/1

should have thought that transport wd make it difficult for them to compete in the export trade with either Lebanon or Israel.

As for the electric energy, is there not a danger ~~that~~ if both the Yarmuk and the Litani schemes go forward and the Israel market remains forbidden that this will be unsaleable at a price which would repay the production costs?

J.W.B. Richmond
23/9

It would certainly be as well to make sure that whatever the scheme produces can be sold. Would B.M.E.O. be able to make some estimate? For vegetables I should have thought, however, that there would be a growing market in the Gulf oil fields, to which there run the Tapline road & Jordanian & Saudi Arabian airlines. R.A.F. installations in Jordan will use a lot of power by local standards & might buy it although they would perhaps like to have a source of their own.

Jos. Hunter
26/9

Letter to Dr. Murray. Oct 27/9

Mr Richmond [illegible] 29/9

A) B.M.E.O., Beirut comm'd. Addressed to Amman. 2/10.
(Initialled)

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS PAGE

Development Division, B.M.E.O.,

c/o British Legation,

Beirut.

11th September, 1952.

CONFIDENTIAL

142/53/2

.....

I am enclosing a copy of a note by Porter on "The possibilities of re-settlement of refugees in the Jordan Valley", which is intended to offset undue optimism in regard to the admittedly important Yarmuk scheme.

2. As this paper has been prepared and is being issued as a note and not as a full report on the subject no draft despatch accompanies it.

3. Five copies of the note have been sent to Crawford at Amman, who, I understand, intends using them for Development Board purposes and passing one to the Legation and perhaps U.N.R.W.A.

4. A copy is being sent to Middle East Secretariat and I am passing a copy to Sir Henry Knight at Beirut.

(Sgd.) J. MURRAY.

(J. Murray)

G.F. Rodgers, Esq.,
B.M.E.O.,
(Political Division)
G.H.Q. M.E.L.F.17.

CONFIDENTIAL

The Possibilities of Re-settlement of Refugees in the Jordan Valley

A Note by Mr. R.S. Porter

The most recent proposals for irrigating the Jordan valley by means of a dam on the Yarmuk River, sited at Maqarin Station, raise many important problems of a technical character. These I am not qualified to discuss. However, the assessment that the project when completed will provide a livelihood for 21,000 new families raises questions of a general economic character which deserve very careful consideration. In view of the importance of the scheme for Jordan , the assumptions on which this assessment is based and the economic problems involved must be subjected to critical examination.

2. In the original proposals of Mr. Bunger it is stated that sufficient water will be made available by the scheme to irrigate 210,000 dunums on the east bank of the Jordan and 100,000 dunums on the west bank. On the basis of 30 dunums per holding, a figure quoted in the Murdoch MacDonald report, this would give 7000 holdings in the Eastern Ghor and 3000 holdings in the Western Ghor. A working figure of 7000 new holdings is taken in view of the difficulty of estimating exactly how much new land can be brought under cultivation.

3. It is assumed that the 7000 holdings will provide for the settlement of 7000 new families and it is also assumed that a further 14,000 families will be settled in subsidiary industries associated with the development of the area. This leads to the conclusion that 21,000 refugee families will be settled on the completion of the scheme, a little less than one quarter of the total number of refugees now living in Jordan.

4. In regard to this assessment, it is not in the first place clear what the position will be of the present owners of the land to be irrigated. In the Murdoch MacDonald Report it is estimated (p.62) that the complete development of the Jordan valley would produce about 18,000 holdings of which about 12,000 could be allocated to new settlers. Without detailed knowledge of the actual areas to be irrigated it is impossible to make any similar estimates for the new proposals. It does seem reasonable to suppose, however, that existing owners will wish to retain at least some of the land themselves, thus reducing the amount of land available for refugees. It is possible however that some refugees will find employment as farm workers.

/.5.....

5. The assumption that for every family settled on the land an additional two families will find employment in secondary industries is much more questionable. Undoubtedly an increase in agricultural output in the Jordan Valley will create additional employment opportunities outside agriculture. In the first place food processing and packing industries etc will be required if the products are to be marketed satisfactorily. In the second place, on the assumption that the crops can be sold for reasonable prices, the incomes of the new farmers will be spent on goods and services which will stimulate to some extent the Jordan economy as a whole.

6. No estimate of the amount of this secondary employment is possible without a knowledge of the value of the agriculture output, the type of processing industries required, and the proportion of imported goods which the new farmers will wish to consume. Nevertheless the ratio of two families in non-agricultural employment to each family engaged in agriculture seems remarkably high.

7. According to G.F. Wood's Survey of the National Income of Palestine in 1942, the total occupied population in Palestine increased from 504,000 to 613,000 between 1939 and 1942. The proportion engaged in agriculture was 56 per cent in 1939 and 45 per cent in 1942. These figures should, however, be interpreted with care. In the first place expenditure in Palestine of the Allied Armed Forces had reached £P 26mn by 1942. This must have had a tremendous effect in stimulating the non-agricultural sector of the economy. Secondly private capital imports and funds brought in by charitable and Jewish National Institutions totalled £P 5mn in 1942 and this again must have contributed to the non-agricultural sectors of the economy. Thirdly the statistics of occupations and even of the total size of the Arab population are said to be very unreliable, and to understate the Arab population. Since the Arabs in Palestine were predominantly agriculturalists the effect of this would be to underweight the agricultural sector. For these reasons it is likely that the proportion of persons engaged in agriculture in Palestine was artificially low in 1942, and would in normal circumstances have been much higher.

8. In Egypt in 1947 39 per cent of all males were engaged in agriculture, according to the population census. In Egypt the non-agricultural sectors of the economy are developed as well as almost any other country in the Near East. In Cyprus in 1950 57 per cent of the working population were engaged in agriculture, yet in Cyprus there is a prosperous mining industry and a well developed tourist industry.

9. While no direct comparison of these countries with Jordan is possible the figures do suggest that the ratio of two families in secondary employment to every family engaged in agriculture is too high and that it would be more reasonable to expect a lower ratio.

10. A further point must, however, be taken into account. Granted that some secondary employment will be created it is not at all clear that this will necessarily involve the employment of refugees. Account must be taken of the peculiarly unbalanced state of the Jordan economy at the present time.

/.11.....

11. In his Report on the Water Resources of Transjordan, published in 1938, Mr. Ionides stated that there were then already signs of land hunger and that over one third of the land cultivated in the country had a rainfall so low that in other advanced countries where dry farming is practised it could not profitably have been worked at all. At this time the population of Transjordan is estimated to have been approximately 325,000. The most recent estimate of the population of East Jordan gives a figure of 506,000 for the indigenous population and 120,000 for the refugees. In addition the take-over of the West Bank has enormously increased Jordan's difficulties. Mr. Eyre in his report of the "Frontier Villages of Arab Palestine", states that there are approximately 119,000 persons living in these villages, outside large towns, who have land sufficient only to support perhaps one quarter of that number. In addition account must be taken of possibly 70,000 people in Jerusalem whose means of livelihood has largely vanished. The total indigenous population of West Jordan is estimated to be 410,000; and it is difficult to believe that there is at present a livelihood for more than one quarter to one half of them.

12. The effects of the increase in population in East Jordan have been mitigated to some extent by the tremendous growth of the commercial sector of the economy which was stimulated by the War and sustained until recently by the influx of funds from Palestine. As a result, the commercial sector of the economy has far outgrown the natural resources of the country, and has at the same time artificially stimulated building and other non-agricultural industries. The funds which have supported the non-agricultural sectors of the economy since the end of the World War have now largely disappeared. Contraction is therefore inevitable and is at present taking place.

13. As a result of the above factors, unemployment and stagnation of trade are of the most noticable features of the Jordan economy; and these are likely to increase except in so far as the expenditure of funds for development arrests the decline. It follows from this that any generally stimulating effect upon the economy from the expenditure of the new farmers in the Jordan Valley will have the effect of absorbing some of the unemployment at present prevailing; and it is unlikely that the refugees as a group will benefit exclusively. They will benefit to the extent that their strong competitive position in the labour market in relation to the indigenous population as a result of their free rations enables them to underbid the the non-refugee population for any job which may be going. It is, however, extremely difficult to obtain any idea of the importance of this factor.

14. As far as new industries directly associated with agriculture are concerned, it would, in principle, be possible to stipulate that only refugees should be employed in them. In practice this would be extremely difficult to enforce, and is certainly unlikely to be politically acceptable to the Jordan Government. It is therefore to be expected that non-refugees will obtain a fairly large share of the secondary employment and it is most unrealistic to suppose that the project could be administered in such a way that only the refugees would benefit.

/.15.....

15. It follows therefore that it is most unlikely that 21,000 refugee families will be settled as a result of the completion of the Yarmuk scheme. If we assume that 7,000 refugee families will be directly resettled on the land, it is possible that as a result employment opportunities will be created which would enable another 7,000 families to be supported. If we further assume that the proportion of refugees in these jobs will be the same as the proportion of the refugees in the total population of Jordan, this additional employment would cater for only 2,300 refugee families. Thus on these assumptions 9,300 refugee families might be resettled as a result of the scheme.

16. An alternative assumption would be that the refugees shared in the total employment created by the scheme on the basis of the proportion of refugees in the total population. On this assumption only 4,600 refugee families would be resettled.

17. It cannot be too strongly emphasised that these figures are no more than guesses, based on assumptions which may or may not be reasonable. They demonstrate, however, that it is beyond the bounds of possibility that 21,000 refugee families could be resettled as has been suggested in Mr. Bunger's paper.

18. This does not mean that the scheme is undesirable. The absorption of even a small number of refugees into the Jordan economy, provided this is done in a way which enables them to be permanently self supporting, is desirable, and would have, indirectly, beneficial results on the rest of the population. Moreover, any method of utilising economically Jordan's limited resources is obviously desirable. Nevertheless it is most important that the implications of the scheme be fully understood and that exaggerated hopes of its potentialities for refugee resettlement should not be entertained. Important as it is, the scheme is likely to make only a partial contribution to the refugee problem and its contribution to the solution of Jordan's pressing economic problems is likely to be still more limited.

R.S. PORTER.

9th September, 1952.

CONFIDENTIAL.

DS.

FOREIGN OFFICE,
S.W.1.

27th September, 1952.

EE1826/81

OUTFILE

1/12 1/3

1 Encl

We have read Bob Porter's notes on "The Possibilities of Re-settlement of Refugees in the Jordan Valley" enclosed with your letter 142/53/2 of the 11th September with great interest. We agree that the thesis of this paper needed stating and we hope that it will have a salutary effect on the UNRWA and the over optimistic Point Four experts.

2. You will have seen from my letter ET.1421/37 of the 22nd September to Sir Henry Knight that James Baster has told us about Blandford's plans for setting in hand the necessary surveys of the economic aspects of the Yarmuk scheme. There is one point in this connection which is concerning us. Mr. Montague, who recently resigned from the post of Chief Irrigation Consultant to the UNRWA, expressed the opinion that if a market could be found for the hydro-electric power which it is planned to produce under the scheme, then the whole project might just be viable. But there is, as you know, another major project on foot for the production of hydro-electric power in the area - viz. the Litani valley development scheme which, according to Beirut despatch No. 179 of the 20th August, may cost as much as £100,000,000. We have not so far succeeded in getting hold of a copy of the preliminary survey of the Litani project produced by the Point Four team (perhaps you could get hold of a copy for us from Locke's office) and we do not, therefore, know the full amount of hydro-electric power which it is intended that this scheme should produce nor the markets which it is expected to survey. We assume, however, that in the surveys of the Jordan project the Litani project will be taken fully into account. We should be grateful for your comments.

3. I am sending a copy of this letter to Sir Henry Knight, B.M.E.O. Fayid, and the Chancery at Washington. I should be grateful if you would send the latter a copy of Bob Porter's paper.

(C. Waterlow).

Dr. J. Murray, O.B.E.
Development Division,
British Middle East Office,
Beirut.

Development Division, B.M.E.O.,
c/o British Legation,
Beirut.

(142/53/2)
UNCLASSIFIED

2nd October, 1952.

Dear Chancery,

With reference to Porter's note on the resettlement possibilities of the Yarmuk Scheme Sir Henry Knight has obtained some information from the Royal Institute of International Affairs in regard to settlement on irrigated tracts in the Punjab. From this it appears as though in the Punjab, for every three families put on the land two other families have subsidiary occupations.

2. We attach a copy of the relevant information.

3. We are copying this letter and attachment to Middle East Secretariat and our Political Division at Fayid.

Yours ever,

Development Division.

Chancery,
British Legation,
Amman.

The figures of the distribution of earners in the Montgomery and Lyall pur districts of the Punjab as given in the Census of India, 1931, Vol. xvii, Punjab, are as follows:-

Distribution of Earners (Principal Occupation) and working Dependants by Sub-Classes in Natural Divisions, Districts and States.

(Number per mille of the total population occupied as earners)

	Montgomery	Lyallpur
Exploitation of Animals and Vegetation	187	191
Exploitation of Minerals	-	-
Industry	47	67
Transport	7	5
Trade	18	21
Public Force	1	2
Public Administration	5	4
Professions and Liberal Arts	5	6
Persons living on their Incomes	-	-
Domestic Service	10	9
Insufficiently described	14	12
Unproductive	7	7

These figures include the towns in the districts but as these grew up largely because of the irrigation of the area, this does not perhaps affect the issue.

1952

E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

PALESTINE

E E1826/82

FROM

Chancery
Tel Aviv.
to MES

No. 10108/77/52

Dated 10.9.52

Received in Registry— 18.9.52

Resettlement – Israel

Israel Govt has assumed responsibility for welfare work among the Arabs. H.M. Legation will continue to impress the importance of this work on the M.F.A.

182

Last Paper

(Minutes)

E Dept (Mr Pullar.)
[illegible] 20/9

C Watkins
19/9

[illegible]
19/9

References

–/52.
43
ER1601/1.

(Print)

(How disposed of)

(Action completed) [illegible] 22/9

(Index) [illegible] 18/10

Next Paper

36062

F E1826/82

E

BRITISH LEGATION,
TEL AVIV.

(10108/77/52)
Confidential

10th September, 1952

Dear Secretariat,

We are sorry not to have replied before to your letter (EE 1826/52) of the 2nd August about Arab refugees in Israel.

2. The office in Israel of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency closed on September 1st, and responsibility for necessary welfare work among the Arabs formerly under its care, now rests with the Israel Government. These Arabs, who have hitherto been classed as refugees, definitely fall under the terms of the Israel Nationality Law in the same way as any other residents in the country. Paragraph 7 of our despatch No. 121 of 28th April bears on the application of this law to the Arabs.

3. At present a special commission set up by the Israel Government is examining the situation of these Arabs with intent to establish whatever welfare arrangements are necessary. Meanwhile, emergency relief is being provided. One of the questions which the commission is investigating is how many of the Arabs qualify for Israeli nationality under the terms of the law.

4. You ask for our opinion as to whether these Arabs can safely be left to their fate by U.N.R.W.A. without undue disquiet. It is hard to say what degree of disquiet one should feel about their future. Certainly it is not encouraging, but then nor is the fate of very large numbers of Arabs in the Middle East, whether refugees or not. We believe that the Israel authorities definitely recognise their responsibility in this matter and do intend to take special steps for the welfare of the Arabs. However, there are many problems in Israel, and there will inevitably be a tendency for the Arabs to come at the end of the queue. Nevertheless, we think that the essential arrangements will be made for them. We shall continue to express our interest to the Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and will send you reports from time to time.

5. We doubt if the proposal to appoint a Technical Assistance Liaison Officer is any longer practical politics now that U.N.R.W.A. has finally closed. If it were, and if the Israelis were prepared to accept one, the appointment would probably be useful.

6. We are sending copies of this letter to Myers at Beirut and the Chancery at Washington.

Yours ever,

CHANCERY

Middle East Secretariat,
Foreign Office,
London, S.W.1.

E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

PALESTINE

E E 1826/83

1952

FROM

Mr Chapman Andrews, Beirut.

No. 550.

Dated 20.9.52.

Received in Registry— 22.9.52.

Agreement with Syria.

Syria wishes the agreement to be secret. Ad. Com. accepts this.

Rpt J Damascus, W. Va.

Last Paper.

(Minutes.)

Held up for pp.

e Watson 29/9

References.

Jrg

29/9

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action completed.) 1/10

(Index.) 1 7/10

Next Paper.

31401 F.O.P.

E

SECRET

E E 1826/83

FROM BEIRUT TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL DISTRIBUTION

Mr. Chapman Andrews
No. 550
20th September, 1952

D: 3.12 p.m. 20th September, 1952
R: 4.40 p.m. 20th September, 1952

PRIORITY
SECRET

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 550 of 20th September.
Repeated for information to Damascus
Washington

EE 1826/79

My telegram No. 533.

Following from Knight.

Director states that Syria wants agreement to be secret. Advisory Commission accept this.

Foreign Office please pass to Washington as my telegram No. 24.

[Repeated to Washington]

DISTRIBUTED TO:
Eastern Department
Middle East Secretariat

G G G G

22 SEP 1952

E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

PALESTINE

1952

E E 1826/84

FROM

Mr R. Stevenson

Cairo.

No. 87 (S)

Dated 18.9.52

Received in Registry— 22.9.52

Resettlement.

At the present Arab League meeting it was decided (1) that the P.C.C. question should be debated at the coming General Assembly. (2) Arab States should co-operate with UNRWA in resettlement in Arab Palestine where possible.

Last Paper.

References.

E 7084/29

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action completed.)

(Index.)

Next Paper.

(Minutes.)

Para 1 (i) is a matter for E. Dept.

Para 1 (ii) is encouraging as indicating that the Arab ~~refugees~~ Governments accept the necessity for pressing ahead with resettlement schemes. Mr T. E. Evans has, however, rightly drawn attention to the exaggeration of these figures. We have always maintained, in fact, that the problem of the 120,000 "economic refugees" in W. Jordan could only be satisfactorily solved if the refugees proper in W. Jordan were moved out of the area. The Baster, the economist attached to UNRWA, whom I saw today, estimates that the total number of refugees who could be settled in Jordan as a result of the Yarmuk scheme is probably not more than 100,000. The Arab League's interest in promoting resettlement in Jordan might, however, be turned to account by ~~getting~~ inducing the wealthier Arab countries — ie Iraq & Saudi Arabia — to assist in financing the execution of the Yarmuk scheme, if

the result of the surveys which are now being carried out is satisfactory.

C. Watson
22/9.

E Dept (Mr Pullen) HNP 23/9

MES again (for Mr Richmond.)

I fear the Arab Govts would retort that the solution of the problem is the responsibility of the U.N. ~~and~~ who must provide any capital necessary. However there wd be no harm in trying.

Although these decisions ~~are~~ is mildly encouraging I shall not be convinced that the Arab States seriously intend to solve the problem until they agree to an immediate redistribution of the refugees, moving them from areas like Gaza to countries where serious possibilities of resettlement exist. The absurd estimate that 300,000 cd be resettled in Arab Palestine shows that they have given no serious consideration to the problem.

JWR
23/9

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS PAGE.

INWARD SAVING TELEGRAM

SAVING TELEGRAM

/PFH (11) Copy No...

E 1826/84

En Clair by bag.

FROM CAIRO TO FOREIGN OFFICE

C.O.

F.O.

Whitehall

Sir R. Stevenson
No. 87 Saving
18th September, 1952.

Repeated Saving to:- Washington No. 108,
U.K. Del. N. York No. 4,
Tel Aviv No. 36,
Bagdad No. 75,
Amman No. 69,
Beirut No. 80,
Damascus No. 77,
Jedda No. 74,
Jerusalem 29,
Paris No. 173,
Memin Fayid No. 80.

29 SEP 1952

CONFIDENTIAL

EE1084/29.

Addressed to F.O. telegram No. 87 Saving of 18th September, repeated for information Saving to:- Washington, U.K. Del. N. York, Tel Aviv, Bagdad, Amman, Beirut, Damascus, Jedda, Jerusalem, Paris, Memin Fayid.

My telegram No. 1374 /of 16th September: Status of Jerusalem/.

The Lebanese delegate told my O.C. that two decisions affecting the Palestine question had been reached in the course of the present Arab League meeting.

(i) The question of the Palestine Conciliation Commission should be debated at the coming session of the General Assembly. (Arab representatives in New York have already been instructed to secure the inclusion of this item on the Agenda).

(ii) The Arab States should cooperate with the U.N. Relief and Works Agency for Palestine refugees on the basis of the resettlement of the maximum possible number of refugees in Arab Palestine and the remainder in the Arab countries immediately bordering on Palestine, i.e. Jordan, Syria and, as far as refugees of Lebanese origin were concerned, Lebanon. The Arab authorities tentatively estimated that 300,000 refugees could be resettled in Arab Palestine and it was proposed that experts shold go into the question without delay. It was recognised that it would cost much more to resettle a refugee family in Arab Palestine than, for example, in the Syrian Gezira but it was essential that the wishes of the refugees themselves should be taken into account.

2. The latter decision which represents the view of the Palestine Commission will be referred to the Council of the Arab League within the next few days.

3. Lebanese delegate added that UNRWA was criticised in Arab quarters because it had failed to prepare specific and detailed resettlement plans, particularly for Syria.

4. While welcoming this evidence of the anxiety of the Arab Governments to press ahead with resettlement, O.C. said that Arab estimates of the absorptive capacity of Arab Palestine appeared over optimistic particularly in view of the serious problem of the "economic refugees".

STEVENSON

DISTRIBUTION:
File H.E. H. OF C. Leg. C. Mr. St. John
Lib. H.M.M. O.C. Inf. Dept.

CONFIDENTIAL

INWARD SAVING TELEGRAM

FROM CAIRO TO FOREIGN OFFICE

By Bag

FOREIGN OFFICE AND
WHITEHALL DISTRIBUTION

Sir R. Stevenson
No. 87 Saving
18th September, 1952 R. 20th September, 1952

CONFIDENTIAL

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 87 Saving of 18th September,
Repeated for information Saving to:

Washington	UKDEL New York
Tel Aviv	Bagdad
Amman	Beirut
Damascus	Jedda
Jerusalem	Paris
Memin Fayid	

My telegram No. 1374 [of 16th September: Status of Jerusalem].

The Lebanese delegate told my O.C. that two decisions affecting the Palestine question had been reached in the course of the present Arab League meeting.

(i) The question of the Palestine Conciliation Commission should be debated at the coming session of the General Assembly. (Arab representatives in New York have already been instructed to secure the inclusion of this item on the Agenda).

(ii) The Arab States should cooperate with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine refugees on the basis of the resettlement of the maximum possible number of refugees in Arab Palestine and the remainder in the Arab countries immediately bordering on Palestine, i.e. Jordan, Syria and, as far as refugees of Lebanese origin were concerned, Lebanon. The Arab authorities tentatively estimated that 300,000 refugees could be resettled in Arab Palestine and it was proposed that experts should

/go into

go into the question without delay. It was recognised that it would cost much more to resettle a refugee family in Arab Palestine than, for example, in the Syrian Gezira but it was essential that the wishes of the refugees themselves should be taken into account.

2. The latter decision which represents the view of the Palestine Commission will be referred to the Council of the Arab League within the next few days.

3. Lebanese delegate added that U.N.R.W.A. was criticised in Arab quarters because it had failed to prepare specific and detailed resettlement plans, particularly for Syria.

4. While welcoming this evidence of the anxiety of the Arab Governments to press ahead with resettlement, O.C. said that Arab estimates of the absorptive capacity of Arab Palestine appeared over optimistic particularly in view of the serious problem of the "economic refugees".

7777777

1952

E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

PALESTINE

E E1826/85

FROM

F.O. Minute
(Sir J. Bowker)

No.

Dated 19-9-52.

Received in Registry— 23-9-52.

Resettlement

Record of a conversation with General Flubb, who criticised UNRWA's method of resettling refugees.

Last Paper

(Minutes)

ew 26/9.

References

(Print)

(How disposed of)

Sir H. Knight, Beirut, for Mr Richmond.
22 Sept.

(Action completed) [illegible] 29/9

(Index) [illegible] 4/10

Next Paper

36206

Minutes.

ET 1826/85

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

ARAB REFUGEES

In the course of conversation with General Glubb after dinner last night he told me that one of the difficulties in making progress with resettlement was that the U.N.R.W.A. often tackled the problem in the wrong way. As an instance he told me that not long ago he had noticed that a number of refugees near Irbid had all found regular work, but were still classified as refugees because they were cowering in caves and tents. With the agreement of the local authorities he had called the Agency's attention to this and pointed out to them that all that was needed in order to resettle these people was to build some simple houses for them. The Agency received his suggestion with enthusiasm, but later he learned to his dismay that their idea of setting about the task had been to line up the refugees and ask them to declare whether they wished to be resettled. Not surprisingly their answer had been in the negative, and as a result nothing had been done. General Glubb said that if only the Agency had quietly set about building a few dwellings there would have been no difficulty whatever in getting the refugees to occupy them, upon which their resettlement would have been complete.

I asked General Glubb whether he held the view which I had several times heard expressed, that even if a resettlement plan were accepted in Syria, it would be impossible to get the refugees from Jordan and elsewhere to go there. General Glubb said that he did not agree with this and believed that as soon as houses and land became available in Syria there would be no difficulty whatever in getting refugees to occupy them.

R.J.B.

19th September, 1952.

Mr. Wardrop. 20/9.

Mr. Richmond.

I think it would be worthwhile to pass this on to Sir H. Knight. Does Sir J. Bowker see any objection?

J.W.S. Richmond 20/9

Sir J. Bowker

None at all.

R.J.B.

22/9

(26164) Wt. 8841-209 200m 5/50 G.S.St.

ARAB REFUGEES

In the course of conversation with General Glubb after dinner last night he told me that one of the difficulties in making progress with resettlement was that the U.N.R.W.A. often tackled the problem in the wrong way. As an instance he told me that not long ago he had noticed that a number of refugees near Irbid had all found regular work, but were still classified as refugees because they were cowering in caves and tents. With the agreement of the local authorities he had called the Agency's attention to this and pointed out to them that all that was needed in order to resettle these people was to build some simple houses for them. The Agency received his suggestion with enthusiasm, but later he learned to his dismay that their idea of setting about the task had been to line up the refugees and ask them to declare whether they wished to be resettled. Not surprisingly their answer had been in the negative, and as a result nothing had been done. General Glubb said that if only the Agency had quietly set about building a few dwellings there would have been no difficulty whatever in getting the refugees to occupy them, upon which their resettlement would have been complete.

I asked General Glubb whether he held the view which I had several times heard expressed, that even if a resettlement plan were accepted in Syria, it would be impossible to get the refugees from Jordan and elsewhere to go there. General Glubb said that he did not agree with this and believed that as soon as houses and land became available in Syria there would be no difficulty whatever in getting refugees to occupy them.

22nd September, 1952.

Enter.

OUTFILE

Middle East Secretariet,
FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W. 1.

22nd September, 1952.

SECRET.

EE 1826/85

..... You may be interested in the enclosed copy of a minute by Sir James Bowker recording a conversation with General Glubb.

It seems that the local representatives of the Agency did not handle the refugees near Irbid with much tact. There may, of course, have been difficulties of which we are unaware; but, on the face of it, it looks as if an opportunity for resettlement, though a small one, has been missed.

Sir Henry Knight,
K.C.S.I., C.I.E.,
British Legation,
Beirut.

(J.C.B.Richmond.)

1952

E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

PALESTINE

E E 1826/86.

FROM

U.N.R.W.A.
Beirut
to Mr. Richmond.

No. AC 100/2.

Dated 17/9.

Received in Registry— 24/9/52.

Preliminary Draft for Discussion only of the improvement of living conditions for refugees settling in Jordan.

182

References

(Print)

(How disposed of)

(Action completed) [signature] 18/10

(Index) [signature] 17/10

MINUTES

This is quite a reasonable dft. and I hope the Jordan Govt will agree to something on these lines.

It will not be easy however to translate into ~~the~~ more precise language the generalities in paras 4, 5 and 6 and still get Jordan agreement. 5 in particular means pruning ration lists and will be most unpopular with Jordan officials.

J.W.B. Richmond
30/9

Miss Waterlow CW 30/9

[signature] 2/10

CW 3/10

42863

Y

VERY CONFIDENTIAL

Preliminary Draft for Discussion Only

Jordan Agreement

Alternative 1
6/9/52

The General Assembly of the United Nations by Resolution 513 (VI) has approved a program of $ 200 million to be expended by UNRWA over a period of approximately three years for the improvement of refugee living conditions through projects initiated by Governments which make refugees self-supporting and remove them from ration rolls without prejudice to refugee interests in repatriation and compensation.

The Hashemite Kingdom of the Jordan has broad plans for the economic development of the country, and is prepared to share the benefits of this development with the refugees who are now living in the country, and who have the privilege of citizenship. The Government intends to perfect its plans through an intensive survey of the Jordan economy and to establish and maintain adequate arrangements for coordination of the development program and for guiding economic activity in the interest of general economic stability and the facilitation of the development program.

. . . . . .

UNRWA agrees

1. To enter into a general program agreement with the Hashemite Kingdom of the Jordan during the period ending 30 June 1953 in an amount not exceeding $ million for projects which meet the purposes of the program approved by the General Assembly and the needs of general economic development in Jordan.

2. To enter into project agreements during the period ending 30 June 1954 which commit funds in accordance with the allocations and priorities of the general program agreement or special prior agreement thereunder and which define the extent of refugee participation in project benefits.

The Hashemite Kingdom of the Jordan agrees

3. To enter into the general program agreement referred to in section one and to provide the essential economic information as to project priorities and costs as a basis for this agreement.

4. To enter into project agreements which shall include provisions that refugees will participate in construction employment and permanent self-support opportunities in proportion to UNRWA's contribution to project cost.

/ 5. To cooperate

5. To cooperate with UNRWA on specific administrative measures and in general program operations which will conserve relief funds for the most needy refugees and which will reduce the number of relief recipients and the expenditures for relief at the earliest opportunity.

6. To utilize the necessary part of the net revenues of the revenue-producing projects completed under the general program agreement to assist the refugees who have not been made self-supporting by the program operations and are still in need.

7. To provide necessary legislation and regulations, to make available public lands and generally offer facilitating services which will expedite the completion of projects, the improvement of refugee living conditions, the reduction of relief expenditures and in every way possible assure maximum benefit to refugees from the expenditure of UNRWA funds.

1952

E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

PALESTINE

EE 1826/87.

FROM

Mr. Myers.
Beirut
to Miss Waterlow

No. AC 100/9.

Dated 19/9.

Received in Registry— 25/9/52.

Encloses copies of correspondence concerning Palestinian immigration to Libya and points out the difficulties of settling the refugees quickly.

182

References

EE 1826/76.

(Print)

(How disposed of)

(Action completed) 18/10

(Index) 24/11

MINUTES

The old story of one official of an Arab Govt refusing to be bound by the promises of another who has in any case exceeded his instructions.

I don't think there is any action for us to take.

~~African Dept.~~ ~~E. Dept.~~ 7/10.

JWBR 3/10

I had understood that the Jordanian restriction was aimed rather at the trained administrators who are being attracted by the high salaries in the Gulf. Surely they would not be sorry to dispose of ordinary refugee families.

Jim Hunter 8/10.

I agree.

JWBR 17/10

See with

~~A) Sir T. Rapp, Fayid, to Mr Richmond.~~

~~(182/38/6 of 21st Oct)~~

42863

PERSONAL

AC 100/9
CONFIDENTIAL

British Legation
Beirut
LEBANON.

19/9/52

E 1826/87

Dear Miss Waterlow,

I reply to your EE 1826/76 of 15/9/52 concerning Palestinian immigration to Libya.

I enclose copies of the more important parts of the correspondenc but I fear that to copy all the gen rally relevant documents is far beyond the typographical means of this delegation.

However the rest of the correspondence concerns the muddles and unfairnesses of individual cases which is really not the main matter, which is - are the Lbyans really going to accept Palestinian refugees for settlement or not?

At present it looks quite possible that now when at last Blandford has been persuaded to do something about it the whole scheme will bog down on this visa difficulty. I hope very much, however, that Kirkbride may be able to do something about it.

It is the more suprising in that the Minister of Public Works for Libya, while on holiday here told me that his Govt. was astonished that UNRWA had not been more adtive andn that his Government had already set up a Committee of Reception for the refugees.

Typical of the difficulties under which we work is the case of the citrus pruner. One of the 4 sent in Jan. 1951 has settled down happily and for over 6 months we have been trying to get his family to him. However the Gaza authorities first gave him an "All Palestine Government Passport" which the British Authorities refused to handle. After considerable negotiation the Libyan Govt. agreed to accept a laissez passer from the Military Hovernor of the Gaza strip. Then the military Governor refused to issue it. This has recently been taken up at the highest level in Cairo and it has been promised that the laissez-passer will be issued.

You can well see under such circumstances how slight our chances are of settling the refugees faster than their rate of increase!

I may add that it is not yet even sure that Palestinians from Jordan (who can have passports en principe anyway) will get to Libya as the Jordanian Govt. recently issued a decree that no Jordanian can takework fro a Foreign Government without special permission from the Jordanian Govt. As P int IV has recruited 40 Pal. refs. in Amman for Libya we are greatly hoping that they will be able to go. ~~xxxxxxxx~~ It is perhaps suspicious that this decree occurred just after the interviews took place. We hope to hear about this soon.

Yours despondently,

Brit. Leg. BENGHAZI

1823/15/52 8/9/52

Dear Myers,

Your letter AC 100/9 of 4/8/52 to Hurrell about refugees travel documents.

Unfortunately as Hurrel has gone back to the U.K. and the enve ope in which your letter was enclesed had every appearance of a private letter, it followed him to London and has only just reached us here.

The policy of the Libyan Govt. is to refuse admittance to people in possession of laissez-passers and not of propaer passports. So faras I know they have only made one exceptionin the case of a person interviewed in Beirut, and this case was quite unusual.

We have had a letter of apology from the Controller of Establishments abdut the trouble caused by Ben Halim and Dawoody in acting during their recruiting trip without regard for their own Government's immigration policy. Dawoody has now left the service of the Administration.

As far as refugees in the Gaza strip are concerned I understand that the Libyan Govt. is prepared to accept the passports of the so-called All-Palestine Government. The Iraqis have now taken over the issue of visas for Libya in Middle East countries with the exception of Iraq.

Yours e c.

E.F.G. Maynard

O.Myers Esq.,
UNWRAPR
BEIRUT

Clear telegram Beirut to Benghazi

No.14 of 14/8/52

Your Telegram No.13

Refusal to admit on laissez passer not previously made known to applicants who had moved to Beirut to await passage.

2. Considerations mentioned in my telegram No.7 apply. Please make further representations to secure agreement in principle to admit such candidates on laissez passer Failing that will Administration pay compensation for expenses incurred in belief that admission would be granted.

AC/100/9
UNCLASSIFIED

British Legation
Beirut
4th. August. 52

Dear Hurrell,

I reply to your letter No. 1823/11/52 of the 18th. July 1952.

2. It is not quite cl ar to me whether the Immigration Department is prepared to make exceptions for all Palestinian Refugees coming to them from the Lebanon and any other country where they have not got regular passports, or only for those candidates who were interviewed in Beirut and promised work.

3. The point is important because I am very shortly pressing the Director on resettlement in Libya and it would be catastrophic if the Agency was at last persuaded to take action and settlers were then refused entry on the grounds of not having valid passports.

4. The problem of the refugees from the Gaza strip may arise in this connexion. If they get permission to leave that area they are normally given passports of the self-styles "All-Palestine Government " with which our Co sulates will have nothing to do. I have heard that the Iraqi missions will soon be taking over visa work for Libya, Can you tell me if this is true? Presumably they would not refuse the Mufti's passport.

5. It would be a great help here if you could look into these matters and let me know as soon as possible the result of your enquiries.

Yours sincerely

O.H.Myers

I.M. Hurrell Esq.,
Brit. Leg. Benghazi.

XXXXX

XXXX

Clear [redacted]elegram In

BENGHAZI BEIRUT

Received 1545 21/7

10 21st July, 1952.

Reference our telegram No. 7.

Cyrenaica Government has no objection for Jarrah and family to enter Cyrenaica on valid lassez passer. Please arrange visa for him to enter Cyrenaica and air passage to Benghazi.

KIRKBRIDE

[Copy given to A.O. a.m. 22/7]

L L L L L L
DISTRIBUTION

1. Chancery
2. Library
3. H.M. Minister
4. ADCOM (2)

COPY

CONFIDENTIAL
No. 1823/ 11 /52

Brit. Leg. Benghazi

18/7/52

Dear Myers,

Please refer to your telegram No.7 about Palestinian candidate for posts in Libya.

2. The trouble and confusion over the Cyrenaican Administrations recent recruting campaign in the Lebanon arose out of the fact that the prime mover was the Nazir of Works who is very keen on recrutiing Middle East based technicians and officials to replace U.K. based officials. He obtained sanction for his recruiting tour , and dashed off, taking with him the Chief Clerk of the Department o Establishments. Their enthusiasm and haste was greater than their practical experience in such matters and led to confision and inconvenience through discrepancies in the information they gave to candidates, duplicate booking of passages, etc. One point that they quite failed to tie up before they left was the Immigration angle; when candidates began to arrive in Cyrenaica, the Immigration Department raised the objections referred to in your telegram.

3. On receipt of your telegram I made representations to Dawoody the Chief Clerk of Establishments, who has by then returned to Cyrenaica. He was not very helpful so I waited for the return from Tripoli of Ball, Controller of Establishments, I saw Ball yesterday, and he admitted thecharges contained in Barnes' letter (2254/33/52) of 30th. June to me but pleaded that the Nazir of Works (Ben Halim) and Dawoody had really been working beyond his control. (Dawoody has left employ of Cremaican admin. now). He said he thought that the Cyrenaican administration would certainly have to make an exception to their Immigration policy and admit Jarrah and any other candidates in a similar position, whether they had permanent travel documents or not.

4. (Copy of letter to Barnes)

I.M. Hurrell (First. Sec.)

To O.H.Myers.

Cypher

XXX

XXXX

H.M.Minister Beirut. Benghazi

0900z 7/7/52

8 7th July 1952.

CONFIDENTIAL.

Your telegram No. 7 [of 30th June]

From Myers.

Several persons have visited here interviewing Palestinian candidates for posts in Libya. In some instances, of which Jarrah is one, candidates have been promised employment by Cyrenaican administration and have made all preparations to leave including selling their houses and furniture. Moreover ADCOM is pressing UNRWA to speed up placing of artisans and negotiations for land settlement.

2. The only travel document which it is possible for refugees in Lebanon to obtain is Lebanese Laissez-passer. The Cyrenaican administration's ruling therefore constitutes a ban on refugees from this country.

3. Would you please make representations to the Government ?

Distribution: H.M.M. Chancery. Library. Visa Section
om/eac UNRWA (2)

1952

E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

PALESTINE

E E 1826/88.

FROM

U.N.R.W.A.
Beirut
Comm'd.

No. AC 259.
Dated 22/9.
Received in Registry— 26/9/52

182

Note on Regulations governing visits to Refugee Camps in Syria, Lebanon, Gaza and Jordan.

References

MINUTES

New Dept. sec.

C Walton
30/9

These regulations, particularly the Syrian and Jordan ones, show the distrust existing between local governments and UNRWA. E. Dept might care to see.

JEBR
30/9

(Print)

(How disposed of)

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

(Action completed)	(Index)
8/10	17/10

42863

(To Adcom Members for information, 19/9/52)

Note on Regulations Governing

VISITS TO REFUGEE CAMPS

Syria

In Syria camps are government institutions. For any foreigner, whether on UNRWA staff or not, to visit one he must apply to UNRWA Field Office which transmits applications to the proper government authority for their approval.

Field Instruction No. 1, dated 16 July 1952, refers to the responsibility of each Area Officer and Camp Leader for his area or camp, and continues, "It is therefore necessary that all staff members in Syria should contact Area Officers and Camp Leaders at the time of their visit to areas and camps". This document is signed by the Field Inspector.

Lebanon

There are no restrictions placed by the Government on visits to camps and no formal instructions have been issued by UNRWA. In practice, however, the Field Office requests HQ visitors to contact them first, in case there is a delicate or difficult situation in any camp. This practice is observed by HQ visitors.

Gaza

To visit Gaza one must have a frontier permit, which states the object of the visit. UNRWA members are met at the airport by a representative of the CDO's office and, if it is a first visit, the newcomer is immediately cleared with the Military Intelligence. A stranger to UNRWA is met on arrival by a Military Intelligence Officer, who is responsible for the visitor throughout his trip. There is no formal rule concerning the relations of non-UNRWA visitors to the Agency but, in fact, all foreigners do visit our Field Office.

Jordan

Jordan Field Circular No. 35, dated 5 September 1952, says inter alia, "(a) it was agreed between the Ministry of Defence and the Agency that local police commanders would be notified in advance of any visits to UNRWA camps or other refugee groupings by Agency officials on other than purely routine matters connected with camp duties; (b) Agency employees who wish to visit a camp or refugee grouping will notify in advance the Area Officer in charge;

/(c) official

(c) official visitors to Jordan, whether Agency officials or not, who wish to visit UNRWA camps are of course expected to notify us in advance . . . ."

There does not appear to be any governmental restriction on visitors to camps other than the one referred to above. The purpose is expressed to be to protect visitors from possible disturbances.

TP:amy:ep
18/9/52

1952

E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

PALASTINE
~~IRAQ~~

E E 1826/89

FROM

Chancery, Amman to E. Dept.

No. 11001/39

Dated 16.9.52.

Received in Registry— 26.9.52.

Resettlement in Jordan

Considers that the Shera'a area of the Jordan Valley is not suitable for resettlement of refugees.

References

?-/81

(Print)

(How disposed of)

(Action completed) [signature] 6/10

(Index) [signature] 18/10

MINUTES

Mr Walpole has presumably discussed this matter with UNRWA's Consultant Geophysicist, whose report of the northern area of the Shera'a was expected by the end of Sept. (See p. 6 of the Agency's Monthly Report for August on EE 1821/86.)

C Watkins
3/10.

[signature]
3/10

42863

RESTRICTED

British Legation,

AMMAN.

(11001/39)

16th September, 1952.

EE 1886/89

Dear Department,

In connection with the question of the overall water resources of Jordan and the proposals which were discussed at length some time ago for settlement of refugees in the Shera'a, you may like to know that it is now the opinion of the Director of Lands in the Jordan Government, that the Shera'a is every year getting drier. He says that even since he himself came to this country (in 1936) there has been a noticeable decline in the flow of springs in the Shera'a area. One, near Petra, according to the local inhabitants, supported as many as 150 families before 1927. Now two families are barely able to get enough water from it.

2. There seems unfortunately to be little doubt that the earthquake of 1927 did seriously affect the water-bearing strata of the Shera'a. Sir Alec Kirkbride in 1950 noticed a change in the position of springs in the Naqb Ishtar-Wadi Ram area: whereas before 1927 they had tended to be at the top of the escarpment they were now more numerous down below.

3. In short it looks as though the Shera'a could never be much use for settlement. Also - but this is not a ditch to be jumped at present - that one can never tell when another earthquake may not do further damage to other areas.

4. We are copying this letter to the Development Division of the British Middle East Office at Beirut.

Yours ever,

CHANCERY.

Middle East Secretariat,
Foreign Office,
London S.W.1.

1952

E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

PALESTINE

E E 1826/90

FROM

Sir H. Knight, Beirut to Mr Richmond.

No. AC100/3A.

Dated

Received in Registry— 22.9.52 1.10.52.

Resettlement – Syria

Comments on Syria's wish to keep any agreement with UNRWA secret.

182 Copied) w. Ra. Damascus, Fayid.

Last Paper

References

–/83

(Print)

(How disposed of)

(Action completed) 6/10

(Index) 17/10

Next Paper

(Minutes)

Syrias attitude remains extremely cautious. This will not help UNRWA at the G.A.

U.N. (E) 4/10

1/10

36206

Emir
JR

(AC 100/3A)

SECRET

United Kingdom Delegation
Advisory Commission UNRWA
BEIRUT

c/o British Legation,

BEIRUT.

22nd September, 1952.

E

E2782b/83

Dear Richmond,

I telegraphed on Saturday saying that Blandford has now informed the Advisory Commission that the Syrians, if they do sign an agreement with UNRWA for the $30 million scheme, will require that the agreement is kept secret until the Syrian Government consider the appropriate time has come for the news to be released.

2. The Advisory Commission had been under the impression that there was a prospect of getting this agreement signed and publicly announced before the General Assembly of the United Nations next month and it obviously would have been a good advertisement for resettlement, even if confined only to refugees now in Syria.

3. The Advisory Commission, however, thought that the agreement would still be worth making ('secret' if the Syrians will sign.) We are still waiting for any definite news about what Syria will do.

4. I am sending a copy of this letter to Washington, Damascus and Sir Thomas Rapp.

Yours sincerely,

H.F. Knight

(H.F. KNIGHT)

J.C.B. Richmond, Esq.,
Middle East Secretariat,
Foreign Office, S.W.1.

1952

E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

PALESTINE

E E 1826/91

FROM

Mr Chapman Andrews, Beirut

No. 583

Dated 1. 10. 52.

Received in Registry— 2. 10. 52

. Syrian Draft agreement.

New Syrian proposals re (1) refugee land becoming property of Syrian Govt. & (2) obligation for relief

Rpt) Damascus. W'Ran.

Last Paper

References

-/80

(Print)

(How disposed of)

Tel) Beirut 845 3 oct.

Rpt) W. Ran 3947(S)

(Minutes)

I have asked for this telegram to be checked and repeated. We cannot telegraph about paragraph 3 until we are certain of the undecyphered group.

2. Both the Syrian amendments seem to commit UNRWA. to a continuing obligation. Their redraft of paragraph 5 implies that the facilities provided by UNRWA. will remain the Agency's property while they are occupied by refugees. Since the object of the programme is permanent settlement, UNRWA. will thus be saddled with a continuing responsibility and I think we should make sure that the Agency are prepared to risk this.

3. I agree with Knight's refusal to accept paragraph six, which explicitly lays UNRWA. under an obligation. Blandford's modification would read better if it were turned round to read : "Under this agreement Syria does not accept any obligation for relief to refugees".

J.C.B. Richmond

(J.C.B.Richmond.)
2nd October 1952.

Check & repeat has arrived. There was no group omitted in para 2 and the group undecyphered in para 3 shd read Syria.

D/o tel.

J.C.B. Richmond 3rd Oct.

E. Dept. a/a

(Action completed) 11/10

(Index) 14/10

Next Paper

36700

E

AMENDMENT SLIP

EE 1826/91

DEPARTMENTAL DISTRIBUTION

Beirut telegram No. 583 of 1st October to Foreign Office.

[Syrian Draft Agreement].

Paragraph 2 line 2. delete "[? grp. omitted]."

Paragraph 3 line 1. for "[grp.undec. ? Blandford]" read "Syria."

DISTRIBUTED TO:-
Eastern Department
Middle East Secretariat
United Nations (Economic and Social Department

EW 3110

COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

3rd October, 1952.

CONFIDENTIAL

E 7826/91 E

FROM BEIRUT TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL DISTRIBUTION

Mr. Chapman Andrews
No. 583
1st October, 1952.

D. 5.15 p.m. 1st October, 1952.
R. 7.55 p.m. 1st October, 1952.

EF 1826/80

PRIORITY
CONFIDENTIAL

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 583 of 1st October
Repeated for information to Damascus and Washington.

My telegram No. 534.

Following from Knight. Syrian Draft Agreement.

Syria now proposes:-

Paragraph 5: the facilities to be provided by UNRWA upon public land under this programme are to become the property of the Syrian Government after their use by refugees.

Paragraph 6: this agreement does not imply transmission of UNRWA's obligation after June 1954.

2. I agree regarding 5. I have not agreed regarding 6 which seems to imply an obligation on United Nations to continue [? grp. omitted] for refugees. Blandford is trying to get Syria to modify this on the lines for instance "this agreement does not impose on Syria obligation for relief."

3. If you accept 6 as suggested by [grp. undec. ? Blandford] Syria would you please telegraph immediately because Syrian Foreign Minister leaves for New York at the beginning of next week.

Foreign Office please pass to Washington as my telegram No. 33.

[Repeated to Washington].

DISTRIBUTED TO:-
Eastern Department
Middle East Secretariat
United Nations (Economic and Social) Department

EEE

OCT 1952

Registry No. EE1826/91

F.O.,

3/10 4/10

~~Top Secret.~~
~~Secret.~~
Confidential.
~~Restricted.~~
~~Open.~~

CYPHER

OUTFILE

(Date)

Despatched 7.35 M

Draft.

Telegram to :— Beirut

No. 845

(Date) 3/10/52

Repeat to :— Washington (Saving)

3947 sw

~~En Clair.~~
~~Code.~~
Cypher.

Distribution :—

Departmental
Eastern
MES
UN (E&S)

[Security classification —if any] Confidential

Addressed to Beirut

telegram No. 845 (date) 3rd Oct.

repeated for information Saving to Washington ~~(Saving)~~

Your tel No. 583 [of 1st Oct. Dft agreement ~~with~~ between Syria and UNRWA.]

Following for ~~Sir H~~ Knight.

Both Syrian amendments imply a continuing obligation on U.N.R.W.A. Their proposed para 5 implies that facilities provided by UNRWA remain the Agency's property as long as they are ~~occupied by~~ used by refugees. We agree however that this para is acceptable.

2. We also dislike Syrian para 6. Blandfords amendment wd be acceptable. ~~but we~~ It might read better as follows - "Under this agreement Syria accepts no obligation for relief to refugees."

JWSR
3/10

Distributed to
Eastern Dept
M E Secretariat
U.N. Economic and Social Dept

11.35pm
3/10/52

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

(36302) Wt.21357/165 75,000 8/48 A.& E.W.Ltd. Gp.685

CONFIDENTIAL

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO BEIRUT

Cypher/OTP
and By Bag
EE 1826/91

DEPARTMENTAL
DISTRIBUTION

No. 845
3rd October, 1952

D. 9.30 p.m. 3rd October, 1952

CONFIDENTIAL

Addressed to Beirut telegram No. 845 of 3rd October
Repeated for information Saving to Washington No. 3947

Your telegram No. 583 [of 1st October: Draft agreement between Syria and UNRWA].

Following for Knight.

Both Syrian amendments imply a continuing obligation on U.N.R.W.A. Their proposed paragraph 5 implies that facilities provided by U.N.R.W.A. remain the Agency's property as long as they are used by refugees. We agree however that this paragraph is acceptable.

2. We also dislike Syrian paragraph 6. Blandford's amendment would be acceptable. It might read better as follows - "Under this agreement Syria accepts no obligation for relief to refugees."

DISTRIBUTED TO:
Eastern Department
Middle East Secretariat
United Nations Economic and Social Department

vvvvvv

1952

E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

PALESTINE

E E1826/92

FROM

Sir O. Franks,

Washington

No. 1889.

Dated

Received in Registry— 4. 10. 52

6. 10. 52.

Agreement with Syria.

State Dept instructions to Mr Locke.

Rpt) Beirut

Damascus.

Last Paper

(MINUTES)

We have telegraphed to Knight on much the same lines

E. Dept. P.W.R. 8/10

[illegible] 6/10

References

- /80

(Print)

(How disposed of)

(Action completed) [illegible] 15/10

(Index) [illegible] 17/10

Next Paper

38074

CONFIDENTIAL

FROM WASHINGTON TO FOREIGN OFFICE

E E1826/92

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL DISTRIBUTION

Sir O. Franks
No. 1889
4th October, 1952

D. 8.52 p.m. 4th October, 1952
R. 5.05 a.m. 5th October, 1952

PRIORITY
CONFIDENTIAL

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 1889 of 4th October,
Repeated for information to: Beirut (for Knight)
Damascus

Beirut telegram No. 534 to Foreign Office.

Draft United Nations Relief and Works Agency Agreement with Syria.

State Department say they have telegraphed Locke instructing him:

(a) To agree regarding paragraph 5, and

(b) As regards paragraph 6 to urge on Blandford to try and negotiate some formula which would avoid any implication that U.N.R.W.A. should be under an obligation to continue relief for refugee families once they had been fully settled.

Foreign Office pass Beirut (PRIORITY) and Damascus as my telegrams Nos. 25 and 23.

[Repeated to Beirut and Damascus].

DISTRIBUTED TO:

Eastern Department
Middle East Secretariat
United Nations Economic and Social Department

OCT 1952

7777777

1952

E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

PALESTINE

E E 1826/93

FROM

Sir H. Knight
Beirut
to Mr Richmond

No. AC. 114.

Dated 30. 9. 52.

Received in Registry— 6. 10. 52

Resettlement.

Extract from "Al Ahram" giving an account of what the Arab League have resolved to do about refugees.

182

References

-/84

(Print)

(How disposed of)

(Action completed) 13/10

(Index) 17/10

MINUTES

The political considerations in this question remain paramount for the Arabs. 'No permanent settlement', 'residence in and around Palestine' 'first in Palestine and later in neighbouring areas according to their absorptive capacity', are the slogans.

It is however mildly encouraging that transfer of refugees from country to country is cautiously considered.

The last paragraph hints at contributions from Iraq and Saudi Arabia. These will not be easily forthcoming.

E. Dept. Pub. 9/10
African Dept.
Rmy 10/+

JWBK 6/10

42863

(AC 11)

UNCLASSIFIED

United Kingdom Delegation
Advisory Commission UNRWA
BEIRUT

c/o British Legation,

BEIRUT.

E

30th September, 1952.

E 1826/93

Dear Richmond,

I enclose a copy of a newspaper account of what the Arab League is said to have decided about the refugees, but I cannot speak for its accuracy.

2. I am sending a copy of this letter to Washington and U.K. Delegation New York.

Yours sincerely,

(H.F. KNIGHT)

J.C.B. Richmond, Esq.,
Middle East Secretariat,
Foreign Office,
London, S.W.1.

2 - English
2 - French

"AL AHRAM" TRANSLATION 27 September 1952

Text of the Arab League Political Committee Resolutions Concerning the Refugees

As previously reported in "Al Ahram", the Arab League Political Committee passed a number of resolutions concerning the Palestine case and the refugee problem. We now publish the text of these resolutions, in view of their importance.

(1) The Political Committee recommends to the Arab Governments to continue their endeavours to safeguard the rights of the Arabs of Palestine and to demand the execution of the United Nations resolutions, especially those relating to the repatriation of the refugees and their compensation for their properties and losses.

No permanent settlement

(2) The Political Committee recommends to the Governments of the countries where the refugees are living, each according to its possibilities, to agree to the execution of projects which would lead to the refugees being provided with proper shelter and employment, and to the improvement of their conditions, out of funds which the UNRWA is prepared to spend for this purpose, provided that the agreements which are concluded with the UNRWA for these projects shall not embody a condition for permanent settlement and that the rights of the refugees for repatriation and compensation for their properties , in accordance with the General Assembly resolutions, shall be fully safeguarded.

In and around Palestine

In realisation of this, the Committee is of the opinion that the refugees should reside in the Arab part of Palestine and in neighbouring Arab countries.

The Committee therefore recommends that these projects should start first in Palestine and later in neighbouring areas or in other places according to the absorptive capacity and the practical potentialities of those areas.

Transfer of the Refugees to certain Places

(3) The Committee recommends that the Governments concerned should consult with each other with a view to approving and ensuring the transfer of refugees in excess of the absorptive capacity to other places, and agree between themselves on the conditions of such transfer within the limits of the possibilities of each party and according to the wishes of the refugees.

Increase of Refugee Funds

(4) The Committee recommends to the Arab Governments to make a joint endeavour with the United Nations for the purpose of increasing refugee funds.

Distribution of burdens among the Arab States

(5) The Political Committee recommends that the Member States of the Arab League and all other Arab countries should jointly share the burden of the refugees living in the various countries. The Palestine Department of Arab League Secretariat-General will communicate with the Governments concerned with a view to studying and fixing the amounts of such burdens for distribution among the Arab States and countries, each according to its possibilities and budget.

/ The Committee is of

The Committee is of the opinion that the refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and in the Gaza area which is under Egyptian control, have placed heavy burdens on these states. Efforts should be therefore doubles and sacrifices made; all Arab countries, both members and non-members of the Arab League, should jointly contribute, each in proportion to its national income and economic capacity.

- - - - -

1952

E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

PALESTINE

E E 1826/94

FROM

Mr H. Knight
Beirut
to Mr Richmond

No. AC. 100/3A.

Dated 30 - 9 . 52.

Received in Registry— 7 . 10 . 52.

Syrian Agreement.

Discusses changes which Syria wants made in the draft agreement

Copied) w. Ron. Damascus. Tayia.

References

-/90

(Print)

(How disposed of)

(Action completed) 11/10

(Index) 17/10

MINUTES

There are other pts. on this subject. At least 2 more lets from Beirut ~~E. Dir. pt. attach.~~

8/10

Tel 583 91.
594 95

Syrians are still stalling see Beirut tel 594 of 7th Oct at -/98

8/10

E. Dept.
10/10

42863

(AC 100/3A)

CONFIDENTIAL

United Kingdom Delegation
Advisory Commission UNRWA
BEIRUT

c/o British Legation,

BEIRUT.

30th September, 1952.

E 1826/9

Dear Richmond,

With reference to my letter (AC 100/3A) of the 22nd September, 1952, about an Agreement with Syria for the expenditure of £30 million by UNRWA, the Syrians now want the text which I last despatched modified as follows.

2. The Advisory Commission and the Director had considerable discussion about this this morning and eventually decided it would be best to accept the modifications proposed as otherwise there is little chance of getting the Agreement signed before the Syrian Foreign Minister proceeds to New York for the General Assembly of the United Nations.

3. (I am still keeping my fingers crossed as to whether the Syrians will sign anything.)

4. Of the three changes proposed, those in paragraphs 5 and 6 might be read as entitling Syria from 1st January, 1954, to take over as property of the Syrian State any schools, houses, wells, irrigation works, farms, etc., which UNRWA money has constructed and to turn the refugees out back on to ration rolls. Our Legal Adviser, however, gave the assurance that the first paragraph of the Agreement given in my telegram No. 534 of the 17th September is sufficiently specific in referring to the refugees becoming self-supporting to preclude the unfavourable interpretation.

5. It is possible that the changes are due to a desire to placate Arab opinion which, according to the report of the Arab League proceedings, excludes any agreements for permanent settlement of refugees.

6. The Advisory Commission therefore suggested Blandford should try to get paragraph 6 modified but if he did not, should agree to signing the Agreement, and I think he is seeing the Syrian Foreign Minister to-morrow for the purpose.

7. I am sending a copy of this letter to Washington, Damascus and B.M.E.O. Fayid.

Yours sincerely,

(H.F. KNIGHT)

J.C.B. Richmond, Esq.,
Middle East Secretariat,
Foreign Office,
London, S.W.1.

CONFIDENTIAL

(Syrian Draft Agreement)

5. The facilities to be provided by UNRWA upon public lands under this programme agreement are to become the property of the Government of Syria for the use of the refugees.

5. The facilities to be provided by UNRWA upon public lands under this programme are to become the property of the Syrian Government which will give priority to the Palestine refugees for their occupation.

5. The facilities to be provided by UNRWA upon public lands under this programme are to become the property of the Syrian Government after their use by the refugees.

6. This agreement does not create any commitments for either party beyond the programme period ending about 30 June 1954 except as may be provided in specific project agreements to assure completion of projects and enjoyment of their benefits by the refugees.

6. This agreement does not create any commitments for the Syrian Government beyond the programme period ending about 30 June 1954.

6. This agreement does not imply the transmission of UNRWA's obligation after June 1954.

1952

E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

PALESTINE

E E 1826/95

FROM

Mr Chapman-Andrews
Beirut

No. 594.

Dated 7.10.52

Received in Registry— 7.10.52

Syrian agreement.

Proposed Syrian amendment to paragraph 2 of draft agreement

182

Last Paper

References

-/91

(Print)

(How disposed of)

(Minutes)

We can only acquiesce.
This steady whittling down of the proposed agreement with UNRWA shows how far that Syrians are from accepting large scale settlement of refugees from outside Syria.

JWBR
8/10

E. Dept.
PCR 10/10

(Action completed)

11/10

(Index)

17/10

Next Paper

37021

CONFIDENTIAL

E7826/95

FROM BEIRUT TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL DISTRIBUTION

Mr. Chapman Andrews
No. 594
7th October, 1952

D: 11.00 a.m. 7th October, 1952
R: 12.28 p.m. 7th October, 1952

IMMEDIATE
CONFIDENTIAL

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 594 of 7th October.
Repeated for information to Washington.

Your telegram No. 845. EE1826/91

Following from Knight.

Syrian agreement paragraph 2.

Syrian Government wish to omit number of families, ostensibly to reassure public opinion about accepting more refugees from outside.

2. As separate project agreement executed later will control both expenditure fund and number to be settled, I shall agree to the omission unless otherwise instructed tomorrow.

Foreign Office pass Washington as my Saving telegram No. 24.

[Repeated saving to Washington]

DISTRIBUTED TO:
Eastern Department
Middle East Secretariat

ADVANCE COPIES:
Mr. Scott
Head of Eastern Department
Middle East Secretariat

G G G G

1952

E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

PALESTINE

E E1826/96

FROM

UNRWA.
Comm'd.

No. AC. 45.

Dated

Received in Registry— 3. 10. 52.
10. 10. 52.

Table of the distribution of refugees according to their residence.

References

(Print)

(How disposed of)

(Action completed)

(Index)

10/10

MINUTES

This may be useful for reference purposes.

C Watkins
15/10.

Yes indeed.

JEBR
15/10

42863

DISTRIBUTION OF REFUGEES ACCORDING TO THEIR RESIDENCE

31 AUG 1952

DISTRICT	AREA	IN HOUSES		CAMPS		IN TENTS		IN BARRACKS		TOTAL	
		Pers.	Fams.	No.	Name	Pers.	Fams.	Pers.	Fams.	Pers.	Fams.
LEBANON	Beirut	16291	3997							16291	3997
				1	Mar Elias	433	102	42	6	475	108
		16291	3997	1		433	102	42	6	16766	4105
	Mountain	11867	2896							11867	2896
				2	Burj Barajneh	2683	666			2683	666
				3	Shatila	1280	290			1280	290
				4	Jisr el Pasha	844	204			844	204
				5	Dekwaneh	1006	265	508	92	1514	357
				6	Debayeh	689	165	350	85	1039	250
		11867	2896	5		6502	1590	858	177	19227	4663
	Saida	14408	3107							14408	3107
				7	Mieh Mieh	8052	1589	45	17	8097	1606
				8	Ein el Hilweh	925	197	1428	336	2353	533
		14408	3107	2		8977	1786	1473	352	24858	5245
	Tyre	17495	3819							17495	3819
				9	Rashidieh	1262	263	774	178	2036	441
				10	El Bass	12	3	2615	562	2627	565
		17495	3819	2		1274	266	3389	740	22158	4825
	Tripoli	4830	1146							4830	1146
				11	Nahr el Bared	6116	1347			6116	1347
				12	Khan el Askar			548	130	548	130
		4830	1146	2		6116	1347	548	130	11494	2623
	Beqa'	1710	391							1710	391
				13	Anjar			1896	437	1896	437
				14	Wavel			2575	584	2575	584
				15	Gouraud			2777	647	2777	647
		1710	391	3		-	-	7248	1668	8958	2059
GRAND TOTAL		66601	15356	15		23302	5091	13558	3073	103461	23520
SYRIA	Damascus	39173	8772							39173	8772
				1	Khan esh Shih	2911	681	300	66	3211	747
				2	Alliance	2213	520	762	115	2975	635
				3	Khan Dannoun			1082	235	1082	235
		39173	8772	3		5124	1201	2144	416	46441	10389
	North	4229	855							4229	855
				4	Nairab Camp	23	8	4800	1147	4823	1155
				5	Khan Abu Baker			310	74	310	74
				6	Quarantine			174	42	174	42
				7	Citadel (Lattakie)			79	25	79	25
		4229	855	4		23	8	5363	1288	9615	2151
	Homs & Hama	3978	886							3978	886
				8	Homs City Camp	304	84	2165	470	2469	554
				9	Hama Citadel Camp	802	181			802	181
		3978	886	2		1106	265	2165	470	7249	1621
	South	19406	4318							19406	4318
				10	Sweida Camp			864	203	864	203
				11	Dera' Camp	1301	303			1301	303
		19406	4318	2		1301	303	864	203	21571	4824
GRAND TOTAL		66786	14831	11		7554	1777	10536	2377	84876	18985
JORDAN	Amman	56711	11305							56711	11305
				1	Jabal Husein Camp	6485	1301	735	131	7220	1432
				2	Zerka Camp	2797	580	1926	394	4723	974
		56711	11305	2		9282	1881	2661	525	68654	13711
	Irbed	28334	5742							28334	5742
				3	Irbed Camp	1723	353	-	-	1723	353
		28334	5742	1		1723	353	-	-	30057	6095
	Nablus	96602	19433							96602	19433
				4	Askar Camp	2705	515	53	8	2758	523
				5	Balata	4004	713	120	21	4124	734
				6	Fara'	2118	419	1917	318	4035	737
				7	Nablus No.1	1763	322			1763	322
				8	Nur Shams	2853	510	728	123	3581	633
				9	Tulkarm	2979	563	2432	434	5411	997
		96602	19433	6		16422	3042	5250	904	118274	23379
	Jericho & Karameh	9730	1775							9730	1775
				10	Aqabat Jaber	2416	426	24007	5012	26423	5438
				11	Ein es Sultan	5868	1176	4775	1057	10643	2233
				12	Nuweimeh	1995	399	3239	670	5234	1069
				13	Bedouins	5139	1143	-	-	5139	1143
				14	A.D.S.						
				15	Karameh	3275	637	15779	3148	19054	3785
		9730	1775	6		18693	3781	47800	9887	76223	15443
	Jerusalem & Bethlehem	50235	9601							50235	9601
				16	Duheisheh	2896	616	351	52	3247	668
				17	Aida	552	116	46	5	598	121
				18	Beit Jibrin	662	126			662	126
				19	Beit Sahour Bed.	548	111			548	111
				29	Mu'askar			4498	866	4498	866
		50235	9601	5		4658	969	4895	923	59788	11493
	Hebron	47068	9343							47068	9343
				20	Fawwar	4529	962			4529	962
				21	Arroub	5374	1088			5374	1088
				22	Halhul	91	15			91	15
		47068	9343	3		9994	2065			57062	11408
	Ramallah	43102	8429							43102	8429
				23	Am'ari	1294	314	403	77	1697	391
				24	Deir 'Ammar	2364	473	527	99	2891	572
				25	Ein 'Arik	132	32	1264	274	1396	306
				26	Ein Sinia	455	91			455	91
					Khan Yunis	574					
					Bedounis	4342					
GENERAL TOTAL		543571	112825	64		126627	25765	152836	31282	854443	176430

Unrationed Babies in:-

Jordan	5245
Gaza	4342
	9587

Count A. de Briey
Registration Officer, HQ.

C.S./f.

		4830	1146	12						548	130	
				2	Khan el Askar	6116	1347	548	130	11494	2623	
	Beqa'	1710	391							1710	391	
				13	Anjar			1896	437	1896	437	
				14	Wavel			2575	584	2575	584	
				15	Gouraud			2777	647	2777	647	
		1710	391	3		-	-	7248	1668	8958	2059	
GRAND TOTAL		66601	15356	15		23302	5091	13558	3073	103461	23520	
SYRIA	Damascus	39173	8772							39173	8772	
				1	Khan esh Shih	2911	681	300	66	3211	747	
				2	Alliance	2213	520	762	115	2975	635	
				3	Khan Dannoun			1082	235	1082	235	
		39173	8772	3		5124	1201	2144	416	46441	10389	
	North	4229	855							4229	855	
				4	Nairab Camp	23	8	4800	1147	4823	1155	
				5	Khan Abu Baker			310	74	310	74	
				6	Quarantine			174	42	174	42	
				7	Citadel (Lattakie)			79	25	79	25	
		4229	855	4		23	8	5363	1288	9615	2151	
	Homs & Hama	3978	886							3978	886	
				8	Homs City Camp	304	84	2165	470	2469	554	
				9	Hama Citadel Camp	802	181			802	181	
		3978	886	2		1106	265	2165	470	7249	1621	
	South	19406	4318							19406	4318	
				10	Sweida Camp			864	203	864	203	
				11	Dera' Camp	1301	303			1301	303	
		19406	4318	2		1301	303	864	203	21571	4824	
GRAND TOTAL		66786	14831	11		7554	1777	10536	2377	84876	18985	
JORDAN	Amman	56711	11305							56711	11305	
				1	Jabal Husein Camp	6485	1301	735	131	7220	1432	
				2	Zerka Camp	2797	580	1926	394	4723	974	
		56711	11305	2		9282	1881	2661	525	68654	13711	
	Irbed	28334	5742							28334	5742	
				3	Irbed Camp	1723	353	-	-	1723	353	
		28334	5742	1		1723	353	-	-	30057	6095	
	Nablus	96602	19433							96602	19433	
				4	Askar Camp	2705	515	53	8	2758	523	
				5	Balata	4004	713	120	21	4124	734	
				6	Fara'	2118	419	1917	318	4035	737	
				7	Nablus No.1	1763	322			1763	322	
				8	Nur Shams	2853	510	728	123	3581	633	
				9	Tulkarm	2979	563	2432	434	5411	997	
		96602	19433	6		16422	3042	5250	904	118274	23379	
	Jericho & Karameh	9730	1775							9730	1775	
				10	Aqabat Jaber	2416	426	24007	5012	26423	5438	
				11	Ein es Sultan	5868	1176	4775	1057	10643	2233	
				12	Nuweimeh	1995	399	3239	670	5234	1069	
				13	Bedouins	5139	1143	-	-	5139	1143	
				14	A.D.S.							
				15	Karameh	3275	637	15779	3148	19054	3785	
		9730	1775	6		18693	3781	47800	9887	76223	15443	
	Jerusalem & Bethlehem	50235	9601							50235	9601	
				16	Duheisheh	2896	616	351	52	3247	668	
				17	Aida	552	116	46	5	598	121	
				18	Beit Jibrin	662	126			662	126	
				19	Beit Sahour Bed.	548	111			548	111	
				29	Mu'askar			4498	866	4498	866	
		50235	9601	5		4658	969	4895	923	59788	11493	
	Hebron	47068	9343							47068	9343	
				20	Fawwar	4529	962			4529	962	
				21	Arroub	5374	1088			5374	1088	
				22	Halhul	91	15			91	15	
		47068	9343	3		9994	2065			57062	11408	
	Ramallah	43102	8429							43102	8429	
				23	Am'ari	1294	314	403	77	1697	391	
				24	Deir 'Ammar	2364	473	527	99	2891	572	
				25	Ein 'Arik	132	32	1264	274	1396	306	
				26	Ein Sinia	455	91			455	91	
				27	Jalazone	3864	801	309	52	4173	853	
				28	Qalandia	1323	276	625	120	1948	396	
		43102	8429	6		9432	1987	3128	622	55662	11038	
GRAND TOTAL		331782	65628	29		70204	14078	63734	12861	465720	92567	

N.B. I subjoin a supplement to the Jordan Statistics showing the number of babies registered in each area but are not entitled for ration, and on this account their distribution according to their residence is not available.

Amman	740	Nablus	1162	Jerusalem	654		
Irbed	586	Jericho	1405	Hebron	109		
				Ramallah	589		
					5245		

GAZA	Deir el Balah	13151	2738							13151	2738	
				1	Deir el Balah	306	56	5408	1103	5714	1159	
				2	Mughazi	1668	283	6038	1280	7706	1563	
		13151	2738	2		1974	339	11446	2383	26571	5460	
	Khan Yunis Village	17167	3583							17167	3583	
				3	Khan Yunis	2722	576	4791	929	7513	1505	
		17167	3583	1		2722	576	4791	929	24680	5088	
	Nuseirat	-	-							-	-	
				4	Nuseirat	650	152	12350	2468	13000	2620	
				5	Bureij	278	47	11825	2484	12103	2531	
		-	-	2		928	199	24175	4952	25103	5151	
	Rafah	2542	965							2542	965	
				6	Rafah Camp	5758	882	16812	3315	22570	4197	
		2542	965	1		5758	882	16812	3315	25112	5162	
	Rimal	18384	3878							18384	3878	
				7	Blue Villa	6864	1423	1797	282	8661	1705	
				8	Sea Shore	5246	1096	586	103	5832	1199	
		18384	3878	2		12110	2519	2383	385	32877	6782	
	Zaitoun	27158	5846							27158	5846	
				9	Jabalia	2075	304	5401	1007	7476	1311	
		27158	5846	1		2075	304	5401	1007	34634	7157	
	Khan Yunis Bed.(1)									31409	6558	
										31409	6558	
GRAND TOTAL		78402	17010	9		25567	4819	65008	12971	200386	41358	

(1) These tribesmen are part of the 36711 tribesmen living under their own tents. The balance viz 5302 are spread out in the other areas of this district.

N.B. This case is simalar to the one in Jordan and the number of the babies in each area is as follows:-

Deir el Balah	505	Nuseirat	649	Rimal	748		
Khan Yunis Village.	534	Rafah	476	Zaitoun	856		
				Khan Yunis Bedounis	574		
					4342		

GENERAL TOTAL		543571	112825	64		126627	25765	152836	31282	854443	176430	

Unrationed Babies in:-

Jordan	5245
Gaza	4342
	9587

Count A. de Briey
Registration Officer, HQ.

1952

E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

PALESTINE

E E 1826/94.

FROM

Mr. A. C. I. Samuel,
Damascus.

No. 18202/174/52.

Dated 8. Oct. 1952

Received in Registry— 15. Oct. 1952

Reports conversation with Secretary-General of M.F.A. who states Arab League proposals that an Arab citizen without nationality should be allowed to choose one do not apply to refugees.
Syrian authorities are concerned with security aspect and competition of refugees with Syrians for jobs.

References

EE 1826/44

MINUTES

I feared as much

JWSR
15/10

E. Dept. 16th 23/10.

(Print)

(How disposed of)

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

(Action completed)	(Index)
20/10	10/10

42863

CONFIDENTIAL.

182[redacted]/174/52

British Legation,
Damascus.

8th October, 1952.

E

Eastern

E 1826/97

My dear Richmond,

Your letter EE 1826/77 of the 22nd September to Sir Henry Knight about the possibility of Arab Governments permitting freer movement to refugees from one Arab country to another.

2. In conversation with the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs I mentioned the proposal that is reported to have been made at the recent Arab League Meetings in Cairo to the effect that an Arab citizen with no definite nationality might be allowed to choose one and asked whether this would apply to refugees. The Secretary-General replied that it would not and when I asked whether the Syrians had any intention of allowing refugees from outside Syria to come in for some purpose such as to take a job, he replied that he did not think so. It was the practice for the Syrian authorities to allow refugees to enter Syria from other Arab countries in order to join relatives, but each such case was judged on its merits and there was no general permission. The Secretary-General implied that Syria had quite enough refugees of her own without opening her frontiers to any more.

3. The Syrian authorities are concerned both with the security aspect of the refugee problem and also to ensure that refugees do not compete for jobs with Syrians. In view of that and of the Secretary-General's words I think that the Syrian Government would be most reluctant to give general permission for refugees from outside Syria to enter the country freely.

4. I am sending copies of this letter to the other recipients of yours.

Yours ever

Ian Samuel

(A.C.I.Samuel)

J.C.B.Richmond,Esq.,
Middle East Secretariat,
Foreign Office,
LONDON, S.W.1.

1952

E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

PALESTINE

E E1826/98

FROM

Chancery, Amman to MES

No. 10303/37.

Dated 16.10.52.

Received in Registry— 21.10.52.

Resettlement.

Discusses the attitude of the Arab League in regard to the movement of Arab refugees.

References

-/77
/97

(Print)

(How disposed of)

(Action completed) 25/10

(Index) 24/11

MINUTES

See also -/97

This idea is coming in for rough treatment as was to be expected, but the fact remains that migration of refugees is a ~~prelim~~ necessary condition for their complete resettlement.

Ammans appraisal of the Arab Leagues recent decisions is surely the correct one and if so it confirms the view that resettlement on any large scale or in any immediate future is not politically possible. Ergo relief must continue for a long time on substantially the present scale.

J.W.B. Richmond
22/10

E. Dept. HLP 23/10.

J.W.B.R.
25/10

42863

British Embassy,

AMMAN.

16th October, 1952.

E

CONFIDENTIAL

10303/37

E 1826/98

Dear Secretariat,

Richmond's letter No.EE.1826/77 of September 22nd to Sir H.Knight seems to us, in the light of our information from the Jordan Ministers who were present at the Arab League Meeting, to place altogether too favourable an interpretation on the League's present attitude in regard to the movement of Arab Refugees. So far as we understand the position, the emphasis in the League's decisions was on the resettlement of the maximum number of refugees in Arab Palestine, in order that they might form a "buttress against Israel expansionism". We were, in fact, under the impression that the League had substituted for its previous approval "in principle" of the resettlement of refugees in the Arab countries a more definite approval of their resettlement within a certain distance of the frontiers of Israel but disapproval of their settlement elsewhere, e.g. in Northern Syria. This, if correct, seems to us to represent a serious setback to the possibilities of large-scale resettlement in Syria, in favour of a largely illusory approval of the principle of resettlement in Jordan, put forward for purely political motives without knowledge or examination of the economic possibilities.

2. It is, of course, possible that something may eventually come of the idea mooted at the Arab League of a reduction or elimination of restrictions on travel between the Arab States, though we do not imagine that this could come about for at best many months. But it seems to us almost inconceivable that any Arab State could agree to a measure which could allow an uncontrolled influx of refugees into its territory.

3. In any case, it would seem to us most undesirable that we, or any Western Power, should attempt to meddle in what is essentially an inter-Arab affair, as to do so would be the best way of delaying matters by raising suspicion. If the Arabs can work out something by themselves, so much the better.

4. We are sending copies of this letter to the Chanceries at Cairo, Benghazi, Damascus, Bagdad, B.M.E.O. (Fayid) and to Sir Henry Knight.

Yours ever,

CHANCERY.

Middle East Secretariat,
Foreign Office,
London S.W.1.

1952

E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

PALESTINE

E E 1826/99

FROM

Mr Chapman Andrews, Beirut

No. 634

Dated 24.10.52

Received in Registry— 25.10.52.

Arab League suggestion of refugee resettlement in Arab Palestine.

Doubts the possibility of settling many in Arab Palestine.

Last Paper

References

(Print)

(How disposed of)

(Action completed) 3/11

(Index) 24/11

Next Paper

(Minutes)

U.N. (Pol) Dept. 28/10

E. Dept. 31/10.

H.M. Parlear 31/10.

27/10

37330

CONFIDENTIAL

FROM BEIRUT TO FOREIGN OFFICE

E 7826/99

Cypher/OTP.

FOREIGN OFFICE AND
WHITEHALL DISTRIBUTION

Mr. Chapman Andrews
No: 634
24th October, 1952.

D: 12.15 p.m. 24th October, 1952.
R: 1.45 p.m. 24th October, 1952.

CONFIDENTIAL

Addressed to United Kingdom Delegation New York telegram No: 15 of 24th October

Repeated for information to: Foreign Office. Washington.
Memin Fayid. Amman.
Jerusalem.

Palestine refugees.

Following from Knight.

Arab League suggestion of refugee settlement in Arab Palestine.

2. I have just returned from discussions in Jerusalem and Amman and also with British Middle East Office.

3. In addition to some 370,000 refugees, there are in Arab Palestine some 480,000 local residents of whom 420,000 are dependent on the land. The present area can only provide a proper living for some 309,000 of the latter and it is estimated that even if every possible improvement were to be made to the land and under-estimating, this could only provide support for another 40,000 residents in addition to 300,000. The opportunity for development of industries in Arab Palestine is extremely questionable. The conclusion seems inescapable that the balance of 80,000 residents and 370,000 refugees will have to leave Arab Palestine if they are to make a living.

4. Above excludes possibility of settling a few thousand on West bank of Jordan valley if Yarmuk scheme should prove feasible.

Foreign Office pass U.K.Delegation New York, Washington, Memin Fayid and Jerusalem as my telegrams Nos: 15, 40, 154 and 28 respectively.

25 OCT

[Repeated to U.K.Del. New York, Washington, Memin Fayid and Jerusalem].

JJJJJ

1952

E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

PALESTINE

E E1826/100

FROM

Mr H Knight
Beaut
to Mr Richmond.

No. AC. 100/10

Dated

Received in Registry— 18. 10-52, 28. 10-52

References

(Print)

(How disposed of)

(Action completed) [signature] 11/11

(Index) [signature] 10/2/53

Resettlement,

KUNDE, UNRWA representative in Cairo, has discussed with Arab League resettlement in Gaza & with General Negib resettlement in Southern Sinai (add. to Cairo)

MINUTES

African Dept.

I doubt if GHQ wd welcome the Gaza strip as a base if it already contained 200,000 refugees.

JWBM 29/10

No indeed. They have already made it clear that the removal of the refugees was a prerequisite to the use of the area as a base.

Remy Lonne 5/xi

M.E.S. again

Mr. Kunde was running this idea as far back as the spring of 1951, if I remember rightly.

R.T.D. Cedwan 7/11

JWBM 10/11

42863

(AC 100/10)

SECRET

c/o British Embassy,

BEIRUT.

18th October, 1952.

Dear Stevenson,

I pass on the following for what it may, or may not, be worth.

2. Kunde, the UNRWA Country Representative in Cairo, told me that he had seen Hassouna Bey, the Secretary of the Arab League who had recently been on a visit to the refugees in Gaza. Hassouna told him that in his view the solution of the Gaza refugee problem would be for H.M.G. to take over the area complete with refugees as a British base and that he was going to advise this being done. Kunde said that Hassouna seemed very pleasant and frank to deal with.

3. Kunde had also had an interview with General Negib who also had been very frank, and seemed prepared to consider further search for water by UNRWA in Southern Sinai (our search in Northern Sinai was a failure), but said he would not agree to the settlement of Arab refugees in South Sinai because he wished to keep them in Gaza until a settlement had been made with Israel. He would, however, have no objection to the employment of Gaza refugees on temporary contract for preparing land for cultivation, if water should be found in South Sinai.

4. Neither sounds particularly propitious for our refugees.

5. I am sending a copy of this letter to Rapp at Fayid and to Richmond at Middle East Secretariat.

Yours sincerely,

(H.F. Knight)

Sir Ralph Stevenson, G.C.M.G.,
etc., etc., etc.,
Cairo.

Resettlement of Arab refugees; programme of resettlement in Syria and Jordan. Code EE file 1826 (papers 80 - 100). 1952. MS Refugee Records from the General Correspondence Files of the Political Departments of the Foreign Office, Record Group 371, 1947-1970 FO 371/98514. The National Archives (Kew, United Kingdom).